

Message Text

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ACTION STR-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 OIC-02 AF-10
EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 FEA-01 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05
L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 SS-15
ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 /135 W
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P R 271717Z APR 77
FM USDEL MTN GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2428
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

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ACTION STR

H PASS CODEL

E.O.11652: NA
TAGS: ETRD, MTN
SUBJECT: MTN: TROPICAL PRODUCTS - JAMAICA AND TRINIDAD AND
TOBAGO

REF: (A) 76 MTN GENEVA 3587 (B) 76 MTN GENEVA 6635

1. US MTN DEL (GRAEF, KNEPPER) HELD JOINT TROPICAL PRODUCTS
(T0) REVIEW APRIL 22 WITH TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO (CUMBERBATCH),
AND JAMAICA (BARNETT). AS ANY CONTRIBUTIONS INVOLVING CARICOM
CXT BY T&T AND JAMAICA WOULD REQUIRE AGREEMENT OF CARICOM,
DISCUSSION INCLUDED INTERESTS OF CARICOM CONUTRIES AS A
GROUP IN US TP OFFER. US DEL REVIEWED STATUS OF NEGOTI-
ATIONS IN TP GROUP, NOTING THAT US HAD IMPORTS ON PRODUCTS
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INCLUDED IN ITS TP OFFER FROM CARICOM COUNTRIES AS GORUP OF
MORE THAN \$10 MILLION IN 1974 US IMPORT VALUES AND \$8.3
MILLION IN 1975. OF PARTICULAR INTEREST IN US TP
OFFER TO JAMAICA SHOULD BE TSUS 147.33, EX-OUT FOR
UGLIFRUIT, AND TSUS 155.75, FLAVORED SUGARS. FOR
T&T, US OFFER INCLUDED TSUS 168.15 BITTERS, AND TSUS
193.10 TONKA BEANS. US DEL ALSO NOTED THAT BARBADOS

WAS PRINCIPAL SUPPLIER OF TSUS 155.35, MISCELLANEOUS SUGARS, WITH 1975 US IMPORTS, \$2.2 MILLION, ON WHICH BARBADOS INELIGIBLE FOR GSP BY COMPETITIVE NEED LIMITATIONS. US MTN DEL PROVIDED JAMAICA AND T&T DELS, AT THEIR REQUEST, 1974 AND 1975 TRADE INFORMATION FOR CARICOM AS GROUP, AND INQUIRED AS TO ANY FURTHER CONSIDERATION IN CAPITALS CONCERNING US TP OFFER. AS STATED AT MEETINGS OF TP GROUP, US DEL NOTED IT WAS ENGAGED IN BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS WITH SEVERAL OF THE PRINCIPAL BENEFICIARIES OF THE US OFFER, AND POSSIBILITY REMAINED OPEN THAT THE US WOULD BE ABLE TO IMPLEMENT PART OF ITS TP OFFER FOR WHICH CONTRIBUTIONS WERE FORTHCOMING FROM THE PRINCIPAL BENEFICIARIES. IF CARICOM COUNTRIES WISHED TO NEGOTIATE TARIFF CONCESSIONS ON PRODUCTS SUCH AS THOSE ENUMERATED ABOVE, TO BE INCLUDED IN ANY SUCH POSSIBLE PARTIAL IMPLEMENTATION, SOME CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEGOTIATIONS ON CARICOM'S PART WOULD BE NEEDED.

2. T&T DEL (CUMBERBATCH) SAID THAT US REQUEST FOR CONTRIBUTIONS IN TP GROUP HAD BEEN STUDIED IN PORT OF SPAIN, AND THAT HE HAD BEEN INFORMED CONTRIBUTIONS ON THESE ITEMS WOULD NOT BE "PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT." HOWEVER, IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO CONVINCE OTHER CARICOM MEMBERS OF THE ADVISABILITY OF MAKING CONTRIBUTIONS, WHICH COULD LEAD TO REQUESTS FROM OTHER DCS AND USE UP PART OF CARICOM'S NEGOTIATING LEVERAGE IN THE MTN. SINCE THE US TP OFFER CONTAINS SO FEW PRODUCTS OF SUBSTANTIAL TRADE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INTEREST TO T&T, CUMBERBATCH HAD ABOUT "GIVEN UP" ON TP EXERCISE, AND WAS PREPARED TO AWAIT DEVELOPMENTS IN OTHER SECTORS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, SUCH AS IN THE TARIFFS GROUP. HE STRONGLY REPEATED T&T AND CARIBBEAN INTEREST IN RUM AND SUCH PRODUCTS AS RICE, TOBACCO, AND CITRUS.

3. CUMBERBATCH SAID THAT HE HAD SPOKEN WITH SEVERAL OTHER LDC DELEGATIONS CONCERNING THE MAY 12-13 SEVENTH MEETING OF THE TP GROUP. HE NOTED THE FRUSTRATION OF LDCS WITH THE WORK IN THE TP GROUP, AND SAID SOME LDCS WERE NOW BLAMING THE PAUCITY OF DC OFFERS ON THE US PRECEDENT OF REQUESTING CONTRIBUTIONS FOR MFN REDUCTIONS. THEREFORE, HE REASONED, OTHER DCS, WHICH HAD NOT REQUESTED CONTRIBUTIONS IN THE TP GROUP, HAD LIMITED THEIR TP OFFERS WHILE AWAITING NEGOTIATIONS IN OTHER MTN GROUPS.

4. JAMAICA DEL SHARED CUMBERBATCH'S VIEWS, AND

REPEATED THE SUGGESTION HE HAD MADE AT AN EARLIER MEETING FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE POSSIBILITY OF A TARIFF RATE QUOTA FOR RUM. HE REQUESTED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE US REQUEST FOR VEGETABLE PROTEINS.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: (A) US MTN DEL WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, SUCH AS THAT PROVIDED FOR MEXICO (76 STATE 112101 AND 76 STATE 303087) AND INDIA, CONCERNING SPECIFICS OF US REQUESTS ON VEGETABLE PROTEINS FROM JAMACIA. IF VEGETABLE PROTEINS INCLUDED IN CXT, US REQUEST WOULD AFFECT OTHER MEMBERS OF CARICOM. (B) WASHINGTON AGENCIES MAY WISH CONSIDER SENDING INSTRUCTIONS TO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN TO EXPLAIN TO GOB BARBADOS INTEREST IN US TP OFFER, SINCE BARBADOS IS NOT REPRESENTED IN GENEVA.

6. COMMENT: US MTN DEL BELIEVES IT HIGHLY UNLIKELY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT CARICOM COUNTRIES WILL MAKE SPECIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS TO TP NEGOTIATIONS GIVEN THEIR LIMITED TRADE INTEREST IN THE PRODUCTS ON US TP OFFER. WE EXPECT THEIR INTEREST WILL PICK UP CONSIDERABLY WHEN THE PRODUCTS IN WHICH THEY ARE MORE INTERESTED ARE EVENTUALLY NEGOTIATED IN OTHER MTN GROUPS. WALKER

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